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Applicant: Noriaki Sakamoto et al.

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REMARKS

On July 29, 2003, the undersigned attorney received a telephone call from the Examiner to discuss a possible clarifying amendment to the second-to-last step of claim 1 and to discuss the filing of a terminal disclaimer to obviate a possible obviousness-type double patenting rejection in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,548,328. No other references were discussed. The Examiner stated that the claims otherwise were in condition for allowance.

The Examiner agreed that the proposed clarifying amendment to claim 1 would be acceptable and, as noted by applicant's attorney, finds support at page 19, lines 21-23 and in FIG. 7A.

New claims 20 and 21 also are submitted.

Claims 1-21 are pending.

A terminal disclaimer accompanies this Amendment.

Please apply the fee for the additional claim(s) any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

aus. 1, 2003

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